

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

There is no additional fee for this Amendment because the total number of claims has been reduced and the total number of independent claims has been reduced.

Amendment to Claims

Applicants have canceled Claim 1. Applicants have amended the dependency of each of Claims 2, 23 and 29-33, to depend upon an existing claim rather than canceled Claim 1.

This Amendment adds no new matter to this Patent Application.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-16 and 23-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, for the reasons set forth at Pages 2-10 of the Office Action. Applicants believe that these rejections are rendered moot, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 17-22 and 34-36 are allowed. Because Applicants have canceled Claim 1, and have also amended each dependent claim to depend upon and further limit an allowed claim, Applicants believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the above Amendment and remarks address each and every issue raised by the Examiner and overcome each and every objection and rejection. However, should the Examiner detect any remaining issue, Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned, preferably by telephone, in an effort to expedite examination of this Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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